THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATl SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No oil discovery has been made in block CB-ONN-2000/1, awarded to the consortium comprising GAIL (India) Ltd. (GAIL) and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (GSPCL), the operator, in Cambay Basin under Second Round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) above. Age

criteria for oil tankers

1751.SHRI EKANATH K.THAKUR:Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to ban the foreign oil tankers not meeting the age criteria defined by the Director General (DG) of shipping from 1st September; and

(b) if so, the details of the new guidelines set by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATl SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The guidelines on the issue has been issued *vide* S.D. Circular No. 7 of 2003 of Directorate General of Shipping. As per the guidelines, the charterers and oil terminal operators need to adhere to the following minimum guidelines, while in-chartering foreign flag oil tankers:

(i) Crude oil carriers with SBT/PL—below 25 years age

(ii) All product tankers with SBT/PL—below 25 years age

(iii) Chemical tankers—below 25 years age

(iv) Gas tankers to fully comply with GC/IGC Code—below 30 years age

(v) All tankers must be classed with major IACS Society, or the Indian Register of Shipping

(vi) All tankers above 20 years must have at least CAP 2 rating (for hull, machinery and cargo equipment) from IACS

(vii) Tanker charterers and Oil Terminals shall exercise due diligence in ensuring the quality of tankers in-chartered.